United Nations E/2009/69

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2009

Original: English

Substantive session of 2009
Geneva, 6-31 July 2009
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations	2
A.	United Nations Population Fund	2
B.	United Nations Development Programme	4
C.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	8
D.	World Health Organization	8
E.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	9
F.	United Nations Children's Fund	10
G.	International Labour Organization	11
H.	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States	11

* E/2009/100.

09-33180 (E) 020609

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2008/15 of 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 63/103 of 5 December 2008, the General Assembly requested that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on the question, and requested it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. Information submitted by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations on their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information provided by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations, a number of the specialized agencies and organizations have continued, during the period under review, to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have given support using their own budgetary resources in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of support.

5. A number of assistance projects have continued to receive funding from UNDP and are carried out in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

A. United Nations Population Fund

6. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Caribbean Office provides support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands.

7. The UNFPA 2007-2011 programme of cooperation includes assistance to Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and

Turks and Caicos Islands on population and development surveys, which involve support for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. Others include sexual and reproductive health as well as gender and the promotion of gender equality.

Support for the population and housing census

8. In September 2007, a workshop on preparatory activities, analysis and exchange of experiences for the successful implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Panama City. Three participants from the Cayman Islands Economics and Statistics Unit were in attendance, two of whom were fully funded by UNFPA. In addition, a consultant was contracted by UNFPA for a one-week site visit to the Cayman Islands to assess the present Economic and Statistics Unit and to provide advice on information technology issues, including recommendations on how to improve the information technology system currently being used, especially with reference to the upcoming population and housing census.

Capacity-building for the 2010 census

9. In March 2008, UNFPA, in association with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held an eight-day capacity-building workshop on census-data capturing and processing in Jamaica. This was part of an ongoing programme of collaboration aimed at enhancing national capacities in data processing for the upcoming 2010 round of censuses. Among the participants were two data-processing personnel from Bermuda, one from the British Virgin Islands, and one from Montserrat, as well as representatives of Turks and Caicos Islands. One participant from Bermuda and one from the British Virgin Islands were fully funded by UNFPA. The two participants from Bermuda were also invited to participate in the meeting of census experts coordinated by UNFPA, held following the workshop. They benefited from the shared experiences of the other Caribbean countries in areas including the impact of crime and violence on the conduct of census enumeration, the accessibility of various population groups and communities — the difficulties experienced and methods of facilitating enumeration, political factors and events that can impede the conduct of the census exercise, staff performance and integrity — the monitoring of the performance of census supervisors and enumerators and matters pertaining to attrition during the conduct of field operations, climatic and physical conditions that have an impact on the timing and conduct of field operations and other major related issues such as mapping.

Sexual and reproductive health

10. UNFPA, in association with Governments of the region, has been hosting a series of workshops targeting key partners in the area of reproductive health commodity security. The workshops were intended to serve as a reminder of the national, regional and global commitment made regarding universal access to sexual and reproductive health and to highlight the importance of reproductive health commodity security in the achievement of that goal. In this regard, they sought to build the capacity of resource persons from the public-sector health systems and their institutional partners to promote demand for and supply of reproductive health commodities. Special emphasis has been placed on the promotion of condoms as a

means of protection against disease and unintended pregnancies. A major objective of the training was to enable participants to assist their respective Governments in developing effective action plans to enhance universal access to commodities and to promote the consistent and correct use of condoms and ensure adequate supplies for their populations.

11. At a subregional workshop organized by UNFPA and the Ministry of Health of the British Virgin Islands in November 2007 in support of national efforts to respond to the HIV situation in the Caribbean, officials from Territories' national AIDS programmes received training on condom programming, with special emphasis on the use of female condoms. In 2008, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands each received new supplies of female condoms totalling 1,000. These condoms were to be distributed free of charge through the health centres, gender machinery and related non-governmental organizations.

Gender initiatives

12. In September 2008, UNFPA hosted its annual regional gender workshop, on the theme "Men as partners in promoting reproductive health". The workshop, held in Grenada, targeted national gender machineries and organizations that work with men and highlighted the importance of men's involvement in the promotion of gender equality, HIV prevention and reproductive health issues. The overall importance of the contribution of men to the goal of gender equality was also emphasized and in particular, the active involvement of young men with respect to those issues. Representatives from Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Cayman Islands participated.

13. Following the meeting, the Cayman Islands Ministry of Health and Human Services reiterated its view that there was a need for UNFPA support to assist the Government in creating a gender affairs unit within the Ministry. UNFPA has agreed to utilize the South-South cooperation mechanism to assist the Cayman Islands in the process of learning from the experiences of strong gender entities in the region. UNFPA will also be providing the Cayman Islands with support in the area of gender-based violence, as the Government has requested capacity-building support in this area. Specifically, such assistance will take the form of providing sensitization training to members of the security forces and other members of the justice system.

B. United Nations Development Programme

UNDP office in Samoa

14. The UNDP country office in Apia has been providing policy and technical support to Tokelau for several years, including through its country programmes.

15. UNDP has long supported governance reform initiatives in Tokelau, including the Modern House of Tokelau project. In addition, UNDP supported the two Tokelau referendums on self-determination held in February 2006 and October 2007, with UNDP representatives present on both occasions to observe.

16. The United Nations/Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) Integrated Strategic Plan for Tokelau 2008-2010 was developed by the Government

of Tokelau, United Nations agencies and five Council agencies in response to the request made by Tokelau for harmonized donor assistance.[1] The Integrated Strategic Plan, along with the Pacific Subregional United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2008-2012, serving 14 Pacific island countries,[2] provides the overarching guidance for the Country Programme Action Plan for 2008-2012 signed by Tokelau and UNDP in 2008.

17. The Tokelau/UNDP Country Programme Action Plan focuses on equitable economic growth and poverty reduction, good governance and human rights, crisis prevention and recovery, and sustainable environmental management, with gender equality as a cross-cutting theme. In support of its national development planning, Tokelau participated in a Millennium Development Goals planning and budgeting workshop for Polynesian countries organized by UNDP in the Cook Islands in May 2008. A national strategic planner was recruited in April 2009 by UNDP to support Tokelau in the process of the achievement, costing and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the mainstreaming of the Goals (in particular gender) into its national development plan. A first Millennium Development Goals report for Tokelau will be prepared for submission to the General Assembly in 2010.

18. UNDP will continue its support for capacity development through a subregional South-South cooperation and capacity development programme, which will disseminate development lessons and best practices within the subregion, encourage community-to-community learning, develop a results-based management capacity and promote communications and leadership, including leadership training for youth. Institutional mechanisms and capacities will also be strengthened for effective disaster response.

19. Practical options are being developed for population retention, income generation and sustainable livelihoods through the new subregional community-centred sustainable development programme. The programme is aimed at encouraging the development of community visions and development plans for 2009-2015, in line with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

20. The programme commenced in January 2009 with a subregional meeting on training in community mobilization and planning methodologies in Savaii, Samoa, with the participation of Government, civil society, United Nations and community representatives, including one from each Tokelauan atoll. Village/island sustainable development plans were prepared in February 2009 for all three Tokelauan atolls — Atafu, Fakaofo and Nukunonu.

21. Working in partnership with the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, United Nations agencies, including UNDP, will support and scale up community-centred and gender-sensitive initiatives for environmental management, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, including eco-cultural tourism, food security, energy efficiency and renewable energy use. Community capacity development and volunteerism will guide the programme's strategic focus. While initially partnerships and resources will be mobilized for the island/village

[1] The five CROP agencies are: the secretariat of the Pacific Community, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, the University of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment.

[2] Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

sustainable development plans, with a view to sustainability the intention is that the community plans eventually be funded through the communities' own resources and from national and local budgets, including from the Tokelau International Trust Fund.

22. The programme is also an attempt to replicate and scale up the success of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme. UNDP will therefore continue to support the participation of Tokelau in the GEF programme through the New Zealand Agency for International Development Pacific Environment Fund. Climate change adaptation will be a key focus, given the atolls' extreme vulnerability to climate variability, climate change and weather-related events.

23. All these initiatives will be implemented under the leadership of the Tokelau Government and in close partnership with United Nations agencies through United Nations Development Assistance Framework and with the CROP agencies through the United Nations/CROP Integrated Strategic Plan for Tokelau.

24. In 2007, UNDP provided $205,000 for the building of protective sea walls under a national execution modality, wherein each atoll was allocated funds from the total amount for strengthening its sea walls. At the end of 2007, the upgrading of the sea wall surrounding the main residential islet of Fale, Fakaofo, was completed. Assistance is being sought for similar protection for the second residential islet, Fenuafala, where the school and hospital are located. Work continues in Atafu and Nukunonu, in the most vulnerable areas of the two villages. The slower progress on Atafu and Nukunonu is due primarily to the slow delivery of gabion baskets from overseas and to the fact that most of the workforce is occupied with village housing and sanitation programmes, as well as carrying out ongoing maintenance and working on the infrastructural project to upgrade the school and the hospital in Atafu and Nukunonu, respectively.

25. In 2004, UNDP funded a comprehensive review of telecommunications and stimulated a number of reforms in the Telecommunications Tokelau Corporation and in the integration of Internet facilities and services. A Tokelau law website (www.tokelaulaw.tk) funded by the UNDP Thematic Trust Fund on Democratic Governance was launched in February 2006 to make the Constitution and all Tokelauan legislation accessible to the population. The Tokelauan Government has employed a communications officer who is responsible for updating the laws and constitutional documents displayed on the website.

26. Tokelau's goal of being completely provisioned by renewable energy sources is being supported by UNDP though a pilot photovoltaic energy grid funded by UNDP and the Government of France. The project, covering 15 households on Fakaofo, will be expanded upon availability of funding to complete atoll coverage, thereby significantly reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Steady increases in the cost of imported fossil fuels and the fragile environment of Tokelau underscore the importance to Tokelau of a significant shift to renewable energy sources as well as the vital need for increased awareness within the atoll communities of energy conservation and efficiency.

27. With regard to the status of women, the Tokelau/UNDP Country Programme Action Plan for 2008-2012 has committed to gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in its areas of focus, including equitable economic growth and poverty reduction, good governance and human rights, crisis prevention and recovery and

sustainable environmental management. UNDP continues to follow up and provide support to the Tokelau national gender strategy, developed in 2007 with the support of UNDP.

UNDP Office in Jamaica

28. The UNDP Office in Jamaica provides assistance to Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands in the areas of environment and energy activities.

29. During the reporting period, no activities have been carried out in Bermuda.

Turks and Caicos Islands

30. The Caribbean Centre for Development Administration was requested by the UNDP Office to provide the services of an early recovery adviser to the Government of Turks and Caicos Islands following the impacts of hurricanes Hanna and Ike in September 2008. The adviser is responsible for providing technical advice and expert assistance in support of the Government's recovery activities. A comprehensive recovery plan was submitted in April 2009.

Cayman Islands

31. Following Hurricane Ivan, which struck the Cayman Islands in September 2004, UNDP developed a project, set to run through 2009, aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the Cayman Islands to natural disasters through the provision of expert oversight and technical advice to the agencies involved in the recovery process. It is expected that, by the end of the project, an institution to deal with emergencies and accidents will have been created, as well as tools and plans to guide future physical and economic development. Training will form a large component of the project and will be directed at increasing the capacity of the Government to manage economic and business statistics and make timely assessments and forecasts with respect to future disasters.

The UNDP Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Subregional Office

32. According to the UNDP Subregional Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, the Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat all fall in the category of net contributing countries with relatively high gross domestic products, so, technically, the Territories receive no direct funding from UNDP, but are eligible for support through the subregional programme funded by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). UNDP, as mentioned above, awards grants to OECS for the implementation of programmes.

33. The UNDP Subregional Office for Barbados and OECS was subject to an assessment of development results in mid-2008. Since 2001, UNDP has taken a subregional approach to programming in a number of places, such as Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, all members or associate members of OECS.

34. The assessment indicated that Government officials in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat were particularly eager to increase their regular contacts with UNDP for knowledge-sharing and networking reasons.

35. In response, the Resident Representative undertook missions to the three Territories. Those missions have resulted in strong reiterations of the Territories' expressions of interest in receiving UNDP and wider United Nations system support, and clear areas of programme support to meet development objectives have been identified. To revitalize the partnership with the Territories, consultations have been held with all Territories on project proposals and, as a result, in May 2009 implementation of a regional disaster risk reduction initiative focusing specifically on the Territories will commence. In addition, other subregional programming in the area of civil protection and disaster risk reduction from which they can benefit were identified.

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

36. A reply from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was received indicating that there were no new projects or initiatives of relevance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. FAO does not directly assist any of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. FAO still considers valid its submission for 2008 (see E/2008/47).

37. As previously indicated by FAO, its work on the development challenges faced by small island developing States is relevant to most Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Organization's assistance to those States has focused principally on support for sustainable development policies and practices in agriculture, rural development, forestry, fisheries and food security.

38. FAO support is facilitated by its field offices, including the Subregional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados, and the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, located in Samoa.

D. World Health Organization

39. The World Health Organization (WHO) carries out activities in American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau through its regional offices in the western Pacific, as follows:

American Samoa

40. WHO collaborative activities in American Samoa have been focused on support in the area of human resources for health capacity-building; childhood immunization; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infection preventive work; the procurement of the necessary medical supplies and equipment, as well as the conduct of filariasis prevalence surveys and a non-communicable-diseases risk factor survey.

Guam

41. WHO collaborative activities in Guam have been focused mainly on issues relating to human resources and health by means of fellowship programmes.

New Caledonia

42. WHO collaborative activities in New Caledonia have been focused on technical assistance based on requests from the Government, as set out below.

43. Between February 2008 and January 2009, four cases of Vibrio vulnificus infection occurred in New Caledonia. This is the first time that this disease has been reported from the Territory. Three of the patients died. WHO provided technical support to review the reported cases of Vibrio vulnificus infection and to investigate the likely sources and routes of infection. WHO staff also visited New Caledonia.

44. New Caledonia has been invited to attend various WHO meetings for Pacific island countries.

Tokelau

45. WHO collaborative activities in Tokelau have been focused on the following four priority health areas: epidemic alert and response; human resources for health (such as the training of doctors, dentists and nurses); prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; and tobacco control.

46. WHO has also provided support for disease outbreak preparedness, the procurement of needed medical supplies and equipment and the provision of expert health-related technical assistance, as required.

E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

47. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) provides assistance to American Samoa, Anguilla, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, New Caledonia, and Turks and Caicos Islands. Fourteen of the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, according to the General Assembly, are small island developing Territories facing essentially the same structural disadvantages as the small island developing States. The Territories all have a very small economic base concentrated in international trade in services, primarily international tourism and offshore services. UNCTAD pioneered international support for small island developing economies 35 years ago and has since been helping small island developing States to reduce their economic handicaps and enhance their specialization. UNCTAD also pays special attention to the dependent small island Territories with a view to assisting them in alleviating their economic vulnerabilities. UNCTAD urges the few Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's "grey list" of offshore centres to pursue their progress towards "graduation" from that list onto the "white list" of fully cooperative tax havens, as defined by OECD.

48. During 2008, UNCTAD continued to provide assistance in the area of investment facilitation to the Non-Self-Governing Territories listed below.

Cayman Islands

49. UNCTAD organized a regional training workshop for investment promotion officials from Latin America and the Caribbean on effective investment facilitation, held in Trinidad and Tobago from 11 to 13 November 2008.

American Samoa

50. UNCTAD organized a training workshop for investment promotion officials worldwide, including from Samoa, on marketing change for investment promotion, in cooperation with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and the World Bank's Foreign Investment Advisory Service, which was held in Accra on 18 April 2008.

51. The following Non-Self-Governing Territories are beneficiaries of the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA): Turks and Caicos Islands, Anguilla, Gibraltar, Montserrat and New Caledonia.

52. In the Americas region, Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands are in the process of migrating to the ASYCUDA World Program, under European Union financing.

F. United Nations Children's Fund

53. Information on the work done by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was prepared by the UNICEF regional and country offices in the Americas/Atlantic and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on UNICEF activities in its Eastern Caribbean area, specifically the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

54. As is customary, UNICEF undertakes its work with the Non-Self-Governing Territories through its Country Programme Action Plans agreed for the period 2008-2011 with the respective Governments, aimed at contributing to the realization of children's rights by fostering an enabling and protective environment, reducing children's vulnerability to social risks and enhancing their participation. Its programmes are designed to take account of the economic situation of the various Territories in question, as well as their status as small islands. UNICEF programmes are also fully aligned with existing policy frameworks, in both the Territories and the region, such as those of CARICOM and OECS.

55. Each UNICEF Country Programme contains four elements that are integrated within a unified approach to child protection based on professional innovation and results generation. The four elements are social policy, advocacy and partnerships for children; child protection; HIV prevention and life skills; and early childhood development. In addition, UNICEF explores media connections and interventions to advance understanding and knowledge of the issues concerned and of the work of UNICEF.

56. With regard to the British Virgin Islands, the interventions of UNICEF during 2008 included training for journalists on social policy; developing a national child-abuse prevention, reporting and management protocol; and developing a health and family life education policy.

57. In 2008, in Montserrat, UNICEF held training for journalists on social policy; worked on the DevInfo initiative (a database system for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, developed in cooperation with the United Nations system and adapted from UNICEF ChildInfo technology); undertaken the mapping of perceptions of, attitudes to, words and opinions on child sexual abuse; and developed a health and family life education policy.

58. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, UNICEF has trained journalists on social policy; supported the implementation of DevInfo; undertaken the mapping of, attitudes to, words and opinions on child sexual abuse; engaged in discussions for the development of health and family life education; undertaken assessments of the early childhood development sector; trained practitioners in that sector; conducted parent education; and provided public education materials.

59. Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike in September 2008, particularly on Grand Turk, UNICEF dispatched a team within a week to assess the impact of the hurricane on the lives of children and used UNICEF thematic funds to swiftly dispatch key supplies to Grand Turk. Those funds were also used to support the Government's "back-to-school" efforts and to help the Government in the provision of psychosocial support to children affected by the hurricane, under the "return-to-happiness" programme.

60. In a report dated June 2008 submitted by the UNICEF multi-country Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to the pre-sessional working group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF provided comments and recommendations on child rights issues in British Overseas Territories (the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos). The comments covered, inter alia, such areas as general measures of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; civil rights and freedoms; family environment and alternative care; basic health and welfare; education, leisure and cultural activities; and special protection measures.

G. International Labour Organization

61. The International Labour Organization (ILO) provided tabulated data and supporting information with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, specifically American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Saint Helena, Tokelau and the United States Virgin Islands.

62. That information listed the various conventions that were applicable to the individual territories and referred to communications with the respective administering Power (France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the United States of America), commenting on reports received, requesting further information or noting that the information requested had not been forthcoming.

H. Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

63. The secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States provides support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat in the areas set out below.

64. The OECS/UNDP-sponsored regional communication programme enabled their participation in activities geared towards the promotion and popularization of the movement within the OECS region towards the establishment of an economic union.

65. The OECS-sponsored Pharmaceutical Procurement Service places emphasis on (a) ensuring comprehensive quality assurance for all medicines and medical supplies entering the region; (b) establishing a formal system for training health professionals to report on adverse drug reactions to ensure patient safety; and (c) providing all patients living with HIV and AIDS with an uninterrupted supply of antiretroviral drugs so as to combat the pandemic.

66. The OECS Environmental Management Programme focuses on the fields of environmental management and public awareness for improved sustainable environmental development. This has included the establishment of a broad-based policy on environmental management — more specifically, the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The Territories also received assistance to develop their national environmental management strategies as an instrument to give national effect to the Declaration. Other benefits of the Programme included capacity-building and training in tools and instruments such as the management of environmental impact assessments and rapid environmental assessments. The British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Anguilla all benefited from capacity-building initiatives and projects in community-based natural resource management. Training in the development of bankable natural resource management proposals was also provided to the three territories.

67. Support was also provided in the framework of the OECS Sustainable Oceans Governance policy, in respect of which baseline studies were conducted and readied for implementation, and the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was reviewed with a view to achieving an improved basis for sustainable oceans governance. Ongoing support for the management of living and non-living marine resources will be provided through the development of an OECS secretariat-based sustainable oceans governance programme.

68. The OECS Education Reform Programme provided the Territories with curriculum and school management materials and facilitated (a) improved project planning; (b) enhanced curriculum supervision; and (c) the upgrading of teacher quality and of teacher education skills.

69. The OECS Judicial and Legal Reform Project, under which the Territories received legal drafting services to modernize domestic legislation was implemented.

70. Support was also provided through OECS sports development programme by accessing and contributing to the up-to-date sporting information provided by (a) the OECS "Sportlite" newsletter, (b) the OECS "Sports Connection" radio programme, and (c) the OECS sports website; by accessing available information on sports scholarships provided by Versan Education in Jamaica; and through the involvement of national sporting associations in the preparation of the annual sports calendars. More specifically, the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla have benefited thus far from a number of programmes, as set out below.

71. The UNDP-sponsored OECS Disaster Response and Risk Reduction Programme provided support for interventions in the British Virgin Islands through physical works completed in the Ghetto/Crab Lot area, which were undertaken to help prevent flooding and its impact on critical facilities, services and infrastructure.

72. Training in post-impact damage assessment was conducted in Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands, aimed at building the capacity of senior public- and private-

sector officials across all disciplines to undertake robust socioeconomic assessments at the macro level. Those assessments helped to position the countries with a view to informing policy and economic recovery strategies following a disaster. This post-disaster training is soon to be implemented in Montserrat.

73. The UNDP-supported OECS poverty reduction and social sector development programme completed on localization of the Millennium Development Goals proved beneficial to national development planning. That project was undertaken in the British Virgin Islands, and it is expected that the secretariat of the OECS will soon take the necessary steps to include Anguilla and Montserrat as beneficiaries under this activity.

74. The ongoing OECS Labour Market Programme, with its emphasis on enhancing the OECS Labour Market Information System for policy formulation, includes the practical and constructive coordination and monitoring of OECS member States in the OECS economic union, specifically in relation to its labour provision.

75. Also of note is the ongoing implementation of the OECS statistics programme, which seeks to address the data/statistical needs of the OECS region, and, more importantly, facilitates the readiness and willingness of individual OECS member States to commit to evidence-based decision-making, especially, in view of the coordination and monitoring of the economic union.